

Serial No. 08/645,073
Group Art Unit: 2766
Examiner: Gregory, G

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the pending claims in accordance with the following:

21 *Sub N1* 1 (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A terminal comprising:
a period reader reading a period stored on an individual self contained computer readable
content medium, the content medium indicating a period of time during which a content on the
content medium can be served;
a present time data generator generating present time data indicating a present time;
a comparator comparing the period of time with the present time; and
a server serving the content when said comparator judges that the present time falls
within the period of time.

RECEIVED

APR 26 2001

TO 3600 MAIL ROOM

22 *Sub N3* 4. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A sales system comprising:
a terminal comprising:
a period reader reading a period stored on a self contained independent computer
readable content medium indicating a period of time during which a content can be served by
submitting a request to a center;
a present time generator for generating present time data indicating a present time;
a comparator comparing the period of time with the present time; and
a requestor submitting a request to a center for obtaining use of the content when
said comparator judges that the present time falls within the period of time; and

Cont.

Serial No. 08/645,073
Group Art Unit: 2766
Examiner: Gregory, G

the center comprising:

a key supplier supplying said terminal with a key for unlocking the content

when the present time falls within the period of time.

5. (TWICE AMENDED) A sales system according to claim 4, wherein said center

further comprises a database registered with the period of the content.

(FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A self contained computer readable storage

medium which contains content, an interval period concerning the content, and a program

executed by a computer,

wherein said program:

reads the period;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the period with the present time;

judges that the present time data falls within said period or falls outside the

period; and

allows access to the content if the judging determines the present time data falls

within said period.

Serial No. 08/645,073
Group Art Unit: 2766
Examiner: Gregory, G

Sub N6
LH

10. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A self contained computer readable storage medium including both content and an interval period concerning the content, the storage device is accessed by a computer,

wherein said computer:

- reads the period;
- generates present time data indicating a present time;
- compares the period with the present time;
- judges that the present time data falls within the period or falls outside of said period; and
- allows access to the content if the judging determines the present time data falls within said period..

Sub N8
L5 Cont.

12. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A self-contained computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following functions:

- reads an interval period, stored on the computer-readable medium, indicating a period of time during which content on the disk can be served;
- generates present time data indicating a present time;
- compares the period with the present time;
- judges that the present time falls within the period or falls outside of said period; and

Serial No. 08/645,073
Group Art Unit: 2766
Examiner: Gregory, G

25
allows access to the content if the judging determines the present time data falls within
said period.

Cont.
13. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A terminal comprising:
a reading device which reads an interval period, stored on a self contained computer
readable content medium indicating a period of time during which content stored on the content
medium can be served;

NS
a clock for indicating a present time;
a comparator which determines if the present time falls within the period of time; and
a server which serves content on the content medium when the comparator determines
that the present time falls within the period of time.

14. (TWICE AMENDED) A sales system comprising:
a self contained independent computer readable content medium storing a locked content
and an interval period for the locked content;
a center which provides a key to unlock the locked content when a present time falls
within the period;

15. (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists,
said method comprising:

Serial No. 08/645,073
Group Art Unit: 2766
Examiner: Gregory, G

25
cont.

reading an interval period stored on a self contained independent computer readable medium indicating a serving period of time;

generating present time data indicating a present time;

comparing the period stored on the medium with the present time to judge whether said present time falls within the period of time; and

serving content stored on the medium if the comparing determines that the present time falls within the period of time.

28

16. (TWICE AMENDED) A storage device readable by a computer comprising:

a storer storing a content on a self contained independent computer readable storage medium, the medium including an interval period concerning the content and a program executed by the computer, wherein said program:

reads the period;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the period with the present time;

an accessor accessing said program; and

a server serving the content when the period is compared with the present time and it is determined that the present time falls within said period.

Serial No. 08/645,073
Group Art Unit: 2766
Examiner: Gregory, G

17. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A self contained independent computer readable storage medium comprising:

a content stored on the medium assessable by a user via a computer;

period data stored with the content on the medium indicating an interval period of time during which the content can be accessed by the user;

a program which causes the computer to refuse access to the content by the user if a present date falls outside of the period of time indicated by the period data; and

a serving unit to serve the content when said program does not cause the computer to refuse access to the content.

18. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following operations:

reads a period, stored on a disk, indicating an interval period of time during which a content on the disk can be served;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the period with the present time; and

transforms a result of said comparison to data reflecting that a user is allowed to utilize the content, when the present time falls within the period; and

serves the content when said comparing step determines that said present time falls within said period.

Serial No. 08/645,073
Group Art Unit: 2766
Examiner: Gregory, G

19. (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A method for ascertaining a sales period exists, said method comprising:

reading a period stored on a self contained computer readable storage medium indicating an interval period of time;

generating present time data indicating a present time;

comparing the period stored on the medium with the present time to judge whether said present time falls within the period; and

serving content stored on the medium storing the period to a storage medium when said comparing determines that said present time falls within said period.

20. (ONCE AMENDED) A terminal comprising:

a period reader reading a period stored on a self contained independent content medium indicating a period of time during which a content stored directly on the content medium released to end users can be served;

a present time data generator generating present time data indicating a present time;

a comparator comparing the period of time with the present time; and

a server serving the content when said comparator judges that the present time falls within the period of time.

21. (ONCE AMENDED) A terminal comprising:

Serial No. 08/645,073
Group Art Unit: 2766
Examiner: Gregory, G

a period reader reading a period stored on a self contained independent content medium indicating a period of time during which a content stored directly on the content medium can be served;

a present time data generator generating present time data indicating a present time;

a comparator comparing the period of time with the present time; and

a requesting unit requesting a service of the content when said comparator judges that the present time falls within the period of time.

22. (ONCE AMENDED) An independent self contained computer readable storage medium released to end users which contains content, an interval period concerning the content, and a program executed by a computer, wherein said program:

reads the period directly from the storage medium;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the period with the present time;

judges that the present time data falls within said period or falls outside the period; and

allows access to the content if the judging judges that the present time falls within said period.

23. (ONCE AMENDED) A self contained computer readable storage

medium readable by a computer comprising:

26
Cont.
a storer storing a content on the medium including an interval period concerning the content and a program executed by the computer, wherein said program:

reads the period;

generates present time data indicating a present time; and

compares the period with the present time;

an accessor accessing said program; and

a requesting unit requesting service of the content when the period is compared with the present time and it is determined that the present time falls within said period.

cont
no
24. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program which performs the following operations:

reads a period, stored on a disk, indicating an interval period of time during which a content on the disk can be served;

generates present time data indicating a present time;

compares the period with the present time; and

transforms a result of said comparison to data reflecting that a user is allowed to utilize the content, when the present time falls within the period; and

requests the content when said comparing step determines that said present time falls within said period.